TL6556

UNITED NATIONS

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL

Distr.
GENERAL

E/CN.4/1492
31 December 1981

Original: ENGLISH/SPANISH

COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS

Thirty-eighth session
1 February-12 March 1982
Item 10 (b) of the provisional agenda

QUESTION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL PERSONS SUBJECTED TO ANY FORM OF DETENTION OR IMPRISONMENT, IN PARTICULAR: QUESTION OF MISSING AND DISAPPEARED PERSONS

Report of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances

GE.82-10162

107. The reports transmitted to the Government of Honduras were submitted to the Working Group principally by two private human rights organizations and a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council. Three reports were submitted by the wife of one of three persons who had been arrested together. The reports concerned disappearances during the period April to November 1981. Fourteen of the disappeared persons were reportedly arrested on 22 April 1981 and 15 during the period 5 to 10 August 1981. Twenty-two men, eight women and eight children (five boys and three girls), were reported to have disappeared; the children's ages ranged from two to 11 years. Twenty-six of the persons who disappeared were Salvadorian nationals - it was reported that they were refugees - nine were reportedly citizens of Honduras, one was of Guatemalan nationality and one was from Ecuador.

108. In 17 of the cases security forces in uniform and civilian clothes were reported to have carried out the arrest; in 16 cases the Honduran armed forces were reported as responsible for the arrests and in three cases arrests were reportedly carried out by agents of the National Directorate of Investigations. A written statement has been received from a person who reports having witnessed the arrest of at least five of the persons who disappeared on 22 April 1981. In two other cases specific reference is made to witnesses to the arrest; in one instance there were reportedly some 40 witnesses. Little information was provided about the professions of the persons reported missing, but two trade unionists, one student, a former secretary of a church-related human rights organization in El Salvador, a former Honduran university official and a member of the socialist party of Honduras are among those reported missing. The Group received information from one organization, not confirmed through official sources, that five of the persons arrested on 22 April 1981 - one adult and four children - had been handed over to authorities of El Salvador by a Honduran immigration inspector and a woman police officer whose names were given. Concern has been expressed to the Working Group about the handing over of the nationals of El Salvador to the authorities of their country. A report was received in November 1981 of an incursion by the army of El Salvador into a refugee camp in Honduras during which one person was reportedly captured and taken back to El Salvador. Summaries of the reports transmitted to the Government of Honduras are on file with the Secretariat and available for consultation by members of the Commission.

109. By a cable dated 12 August 1981 the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Honduras informed the Chairman of the Working Group that the Government was carrying out an exhaustive investigation into the report of the disappearance of two persons which had been transmitted to the Government by the Group in a cable dated 6 August 1981. By a letter dated 10 November 1981 the Working Group informed the Government of Honduras of its wish to be able to consider, at its sixth session, any information the Government might wish to send and said that the Group would be happy to meet with a representative of that Government during that session. As at the date of the adoption of the present report no results of the investigation have been received from the Government of Honduras.

L. Information concerning Indonesia and communications with the Government of that country

110. The Working Group in its report to the Commission on Human Rights at its thirty-seventh session informed the Commission that it had received information from a non-governmental organization in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council concerning 22 cases of enforced or involuntary disappearances which reportedly occurred in East Timor between 1977 and 1979 (E/CN.4/1435, paras. 117-118). The

Working Group reported to the Commission that it had transmitted the information to the Government of Indonesia. The Group's report to the Commission also contained the information and views of the Government of Indonesia on the matter (E/CN.4/1435, paras. 119-121).

111. At its fourth session the Working Group had before it further details, from the same non-governmental organization, on the 22 cases which the Group had referred to the Government in 1980 as well as a report of a new disappearance which had occurred in June 1980. At that session, the Working Group decided to transmit the further details on the 22 cases and information on the newly reported case to the Government of Indonesia together with the Group's request to receive any information the Government might wish to submit on the matter (letter dated 29 May 1981).

112. According to the further details on the 22 cases, one occurred in 1977, two in 1978 and almost all the others between February and June 1979. Twelve disappearances resulted directly or indirectly from the surrender of the persons concerned to military authorities, two had reportedly been captured and four arrested. One person reportedly disappeared from prison and one person was reportedly seen on television as a prisoner prior to his disappearance. Most were reportedly connected with the Frente Revolucionaria de Timor Leste Independente (FRETILIN). With regard to the disappearance which reportedly occurred in June 1980, the Working Group learned from a non-governmental source, subsequent to the transmission of the report to the Government, that the person in question was being held in a prison in Dili. No official confirmation of this has been received. Summaries of the reports transmitted to the Government of Indonesia are on file with the Secretariat and available for consultation by members of the Commission.

113. By a letter dated 10 November 1981, the Working Group informed the Government of Indonesia of its wish to be able to consider at its sixth session any information the Government might wish to send and that the Group would be happy to meet with a representative of the Government during that session should the Government so wish. As of the date of the adoption of this report no response has been received from the Government of Indonesia.

M. Information concerning Iran and communications with the Government of that country

114. The Working Group at its fourth session had before it information on 14 enforced or involuntary disappearances which reportedly occurred in Iran. These reports had been submitted to the Group by a non-governmental organization in consultation status with the Economic and Social Council. At that session, the Working Group decided to inform the Government of Iran that it had received information and expressions of concern regarding reported enforced or involuntary disappearances in that country. It also decided to raise the question of establishing direct contact with the Government of Iran in the matter (letter dated 29 May 1981) and to transmit to the Government the information received regarding the 14 cases together with a request that the Government send to the Working Group any information it might wish to make available (letter of 1 June 1981).

115. According to the information submitted to the Working Group, 11 of the 14 persons concerned were arrested at a private home in Teheran between 1600 and 1800 hours on 21 August 1980 by a group of armed men who reportedly showed a written arrest order for those persons. It was further reported that Government officials had confirmed the arrest of those persons. Of the three remaining persons, one, a retired professor, was reportedly arrested on 11 November 1979 in Teheran; the second reportedly disappeared on 23 May 1979; it was stated that an arrest warrant had been issued for him on 12 May 1979. As regards the third person, he was reportedly arrested on 13 January 1980 on his way to work.